GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2178
ANSWERED ON:15.03.2017
Whistleblower Protection Law
Mohan Shri P. C.

Will the Minister of PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has implemented the Whistleblowers protection law which was passed by the Parliament in February, 2014;

(b) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether the Government is having details of murders of RTI activists in India and the action taken by the Government to implement the Whistleblowers protection scheme by various States;

(d) if so, the details thereof, Statewise during the last three years and the current year; and

(e) the action taken by the Government in this regard?

Answer

Minister of State in the Ministry of Personnel, Public Grievances and Pensions and Minister of State in the Prime Minister's Office. (DR. JITENDRA SINGH)
(a) & (b): The Whistle Blowers Protection Bill, 2011 was passed by the Lok Sabha on the 27th of December, 2011. The Bill as passed by Lok Sabha was finally passed by Rajya Sabha on 21st February, 2014 and received the assent of the President on 09th May, 2014. As the Bill was taken up on the last day of the last Session of the 15th Lok Sabha, the official amendments to the Bill aimed at safeguarding against disclosures affecting sovereignty and integrity of India, security of State, etc. were not moved. The proposed amendments are of crucial nature and, therefore, the Act can be brought into force only after necessary amendments are carried out. To make these amendments to the Whistle Blowers Protection Act, 2014, the Government has introduced the Whistle Blowers Protection (Amendment) Bill, 2015 in the Lok Sabha on 11th May, 2015 which has been passed by the Lok Sabha on 13th May, 2015. The said Bill is presently pending in the Rajya Sabha.
(c) to (e): The Central Vigilance Commission has informed that there is no such case of murder of any Whistleblower/RTI activists, which has come to their notice during the last three years and the current year under the Public Interest Disclosure and Protection of Informers (PIDPI) Resolution, 2004.
There are some media reports that some persons have been assaulted, missing and killed in the last three years allegedly due to their RTI related activism. However, the data regarding murders of RTI activists is not maintained centrally.
Under the PIDPI Resolution, 2004, the Central Vigilance Commission (CVC) and the Chief Vigilance Officers of the Ministries/Departments of the Central Government have been authorized to receive written complaints for disclosure on any allegation of corruption or misuse of office and recommend appropriate action. The CVC, after receipt of representation(s) about threats to life of Whistle Blowers, takes up the matter with the Ministry of Home Affairs, the Nodal Agency, to undertake the responsibility of providing security cover to genuine Whistle Blowers. The Home Ministry, in turn, asks individual State Governments to examine the threat and provide security cover, if needed. On the advice of Ministry of Home Affairs, State Governments have appointed Nodal Officers in the respective States to whom such matters are referred.
*****